

From: Oliver M . Bolzer
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 6:23am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I oppose the settlement with Microsoft in its current form.
There are many reasons for it, but to just state a few

- Steadily increasing prices. Since the settlement-course has come, Microsoft OSs prices are climbing steeply. As in many people's eyes there is no alternative, this abuse of monopoly really hurts the world's development. Less children can own a computer. It's wrong that for a \$1000 PC, \$300 is just for the OS.
- The settlement is too short-sighted. It only covers current products but does not try to prevent rehashing of anti-competitive movements in next versions of the Microsoft OS. Too narrow definitions of various terms, including API and middleware, handling of Java and more.
- The Settlement hinders the development of compatible OSes. The documents Microsoft must make open (not many) can not be used to block the monopoly
- no protection against patents. Even if Microsoft complies with settlement and "opens" up the API and other aspects of their products. The use of such information could be protected by dumb software patents (which should not have been granted in the first place) and thus the opening made useless.
- intentional incompatibilities are still allowed (like was done with DR-DOS)
- OEMs are not liberated. Microsoft's monopoly-abusing OEM practices (bundle all PCs with Windows, or we don't sell to you) are still allowed.

I really hope that the DoJ doesn't do the biggest mistake in its after-war history.

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Oliver M. Bolzer
oliver@gol.com

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